

Golden Bull Restaurant
308 Sixth St., NW
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-514

HABS
DC,
WASH,
321-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
DC,
WASH,
321-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This masonry and wood building consists of a three-story portion on the east, facing Sixth Street, with a rectangular plan measuring 25' x 32'. At the rear, or west, there is a two-story ell along the north property line, with approximate dimensions of 15' x 28'. The remaining portion of the 25' x 60' lot is an enclosed courtyard. The structure consists of brick bearing walls supporting wood-framed floors and a basically flat roof. At the basement, along the center line of the building, the joists bear on steel beams riveted to steel columns.

The facade is of yellow brick with a striated texture. It is laid in running bond. On the ground level, there is an a-b-a-c rhythm of fenestration. The entrance to the upper levels is located at the extreme north, while the one to the commercial space is flanked by projecting hexagonal show window bays on a brick plinth. The two upper levels present three equal bays that are established by unarticulated brick piers. Each opening has two double hung wooden sash with six-over-one lights. Each pair of openings rests on a shared sill. Each tier of windows features continuous soldier courses at lintel height. At the roof level, there is a decorative metal cornice on modillions. It is held at each end by simple projecting metal brackets.

On the first floor, the entire area of the front portion of the building is one large room. It is currently used as a restaurant. On the rear ell is the kitchen. The stair to the upper floors rises along the north party wall. It is wooden and has a straight run. The upper two floors form one residential unit. The kitchen, living and dining areas are located on the second floor, while on the third are the bedrooms and a bathroom. On the second floor ell there are additional bedrooms, another bathroom and a narrow service stair.

Finishes in the building are the usual for this type: wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings. The door surrounds have a neoclassical motif and feature a simple wood entablature at the head. The stairs are also wood with simple balusters supporting a continuous rail from ground to sixth level.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This building is typical of 1920-30 small commercial/residential structures in the eastern downtown area. While its date of construction has been impossible to verify, its similarity to its 1928-built neighbor to the north and information inferred by the building permit sequence point to 1930 (Permits #130428;

2/5/30; #131429, 3/22/30; 131430, 3/22/30; #134,968,
8/2/30).

Stylistically, the building has little merit, but yet is successful in capturing many of the traditional characteristics of older commercial buildings in Washington. As such it is a pleasant background building in the historic urban fabric.